



# What's New in the City

## City of Natchitoches

### City & Community Leaders Participate in Second Annual Leaders Against Litter Event



In an effort to educate and involve community leaders in the fight against litter in Louisiana, Keep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB) and twenty-three affiliates including Keep Natchitoches Beautiful participated in a statewide litterthon on March 13, 2015 which ended with a press conference in Baton Rouge

where Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne announced the results.

220 bags of trash were collected by 681 community leaders across the state at the second annual "Leaders Against Litter" event hosted by Keep Louisiana Beautiful. Leaders Against Litter is a signature event created by KLB and supported by the

Lieutenant Governor's Office and Volunteer Louisiana that gives local leaders the opportunity to demonstrate their support for keeping Louisiana beautiful by leading the charge against litter in our communities.

Despite the rainy weather, more than 30 local govern-

(Continued on page 2)

April 1, 2015

Volume XV, Issue 4

#### Inside this issue:

Murals of Clementine Hunter	2
Cleanest City Contest Judging	2
Spring Bike Rides	2
Summer Splash	3
NSU Spring Read	3
Cane River Green Market Opens	4

#### Did you know?

- The Cane River Thunder Full Throttle Motorcycle Rally will take place April 11-12 on the downtown riverbank. Proceeds from the event benefit Operation Homefront.
- Applications are still being accepted for the 2015 Cane River Green Market Season. Applications can be downloaded at [www.canerivergreenmarket.com](http://www.canerivergreenmarket.com).
- Relay for Life will take place on the downtown riverbank Friday, April 24 through Saturday, April 25. The annual overnight event benefits the American Cancer Society.
- The Great American Cleanup citywide cleanup will be held Saturday, April 25. For more information, contact Keep Natchitoches Beautiful at 318-352-2746.
- The Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum will host an evening of painting, fun and wine April 10 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Reservations required and space is limited.

## 20th Natchitoches Jazz/R&B Festival April 17 & 18

The Natchitoches Jazz/R&B Festival has announced its headliners for its 20th anniversary event, which will be held on the downtown Natchitoches Riverbank on April 17th and 18th. For the first time ever, it features three platinum selling artists: **.38 Special, Mitch Ryder, and Joey Molland's Badfinger.**

The Festival, which features an eclectic mix of live music on four stages will be headlined on Saturday evening by a performance from legendary rock group .38

Special.

.38 Special was formed in Jacksonville, Florida in 1974 and its first two albums reflected a strong southern rock influence.

By the early 1980s, the band shifted to a more accessible arena rock style without abandoning its southern rock roots. This shift helped to usher in a string of successful albums and singles.

Their breakthrough hits were *Hold on Loosely* (1981), *Caught Up In You* (1982), and *If I'd Been the One* (1983) all of which hit No. 1

on Billboard Magazine's Album Rock Tracks chart.

The mellow *Second Chance* was a No. 1 hit on Billboard's adult contemporary chart in 1989, and .38 Special has had many other charting hits over the years and continues to be an in-demand touring band.

Also, on Saturday, April 18th, sixties platinum-selling artist Mitch Ryder will be belting out the high energy hits he made popular with his band, The Detroit Wheels.

(Continued on page 3)

## Leaders Against Litter (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

ment officials, business and community leaders, including Mayor Lee Posey, Parish President Rick Nowlin, State Representative Kenny Cox, and City Council Members Don Mims, Dale Nielsen and Sylvia Morrow, joined Keep Natchitoches Beautiful on Friday, March 13th to sign the pledge for a litter-free Natchitoches. Leaders met at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreational Community Center and confirmed their commitment to SPEAK UP and spread the word that litter is not acceptable, to PICK UP litter whenever they see it, and to STAND UP and lead the way for a litter-free Louisiana.

The Leaders Against Litter events kicked off the Great American Cleanup held in the months of March, April and May nationwide. Keep Natchitoches Beautiful will host a citywide cleanup on Saturday, April 25, 2015 as part of the Great American Cleanup. Community members and organizations are encouraged to sign up to clean a particular area, street, neighborhood, playground or park. Volunteers will be provided cleanup supplies including garbage bags, rubber gloves, reflective vests, litter grabbers and T-shirts.

For more information on Leaders Against Litter or Great American Cleanup events, please contact Keep Natchitoches Beautiful at (318) 352-2746.

## Murals of Clementine Hunter on Display

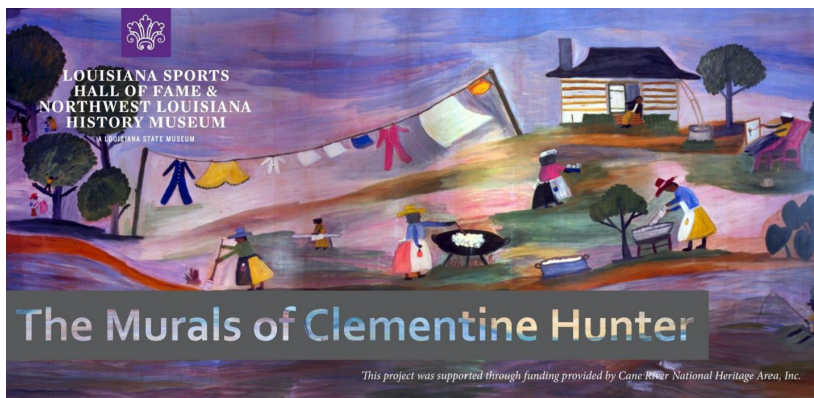
The Murals of Clementine Hunter are now on display at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum. The exhibition will be on display March 28, 2015 through April 30, 2016.

Recently restored murals painted by the internationally recognized folk artist Clementine Hunter are the focus of this new exhibition. Best known for her smaller paintings, Hunter completed the murals in 1955 at the urging of Melrose Plantation resident and librarian Francois Mignon. The murals decorated the walls of the historic African House, one of the plantation's outbuildings, until last year, when they were removed for restoration by a team of fine art conservators.

Like many of Hunter's other artworks, the murals record the social life and customs of African-Americans living in the Cane River region, while also demonstrating her versatility and skill as an artist. More specifically, the murals document the community at Melrose and the individuals who helped shape her life and art.

The exhibit includes six large-scale paintings of Hunter's work from Melrose's Yucca House and Ghana House on loan from the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches as well as artifacts from private collections, including a whiskey jar with Hunter's paint brushes, palette and funeral program.

The exhibit can be seen at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum during normal business hours of 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. The museum is closed on Mondays and State Holidays. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for students, senior citizens and active military personnel, and free for children 12 and under.



## Judging for Cleanest City Contest April 10

The City of Natchitoches has advanced to the state competition in the Louisiana Garden Club Federation (LGCF) Cleanest City Contest. Judges from the LGCF will arrive on Friday, April 10, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. to complete judging for the contest.

The City will be judged on the following criteria: approaches within city limits; public and/or municipal buildings such as schools, churches, hospitals, libraries, fire station, City Hall, etc.; parks and recreation areas; business establishments; residential areas; streets, sidewalks, posts and neutral grounds; vacant lots; and community involvement. The City is asking residents, business owners, students and employees to assist in making sure that these areas are maintained properly and are litter-free.

The judging will take place on Friday, April 10, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. The judges will meet at City Hall and then proceed to various areas around the city judging on the overall cleanliness. The public is invited to meet at City Hall and welcome the judges to our city.

The LGCF Cleanest City Contest was established in 1958 as a way to instill civic pride in individual citizens and improve the appearance of villages, towns and cities.

For more information on the Cleanest City Contest, please contact Keep Natchitoches Beautiful at (318) 352-2746.

## Spring Bike Rides at Cane River Creole NHP

Cane River Creole National Historical Park announces Bike Rides for Spring of 2015. The rides include stops at historical sites along Cane River. We have continued to foster an atmosphere of learning and healthy living through exercise with our park partners to create this excellent opportunity. The following rides include:

**Saturday, April 4 at 9:00 a.m.:** Oakland Plantation to Cherokee Plantation and St. Charles Chapel; Mr. Tommy Whitehead will be giving us a personal tour of Cherokee, and Carey Blanchard will present a program about St. Charles Chapel. Reservations are required for this ride. Please contact Ranger Tim at the park to make reservations. (6 miles round trip—limit of 12 riders)

**Saturday, May 16 at 9:00 a.m.:** Magnolia Plantation to Monette's Ferry. Ranger Tim will present a program about Monette's Ferry and the Battle of Cloutierville. (20 miles round trip)

**Saturday, June 20 at 9:00 a.m.:** Magnolia Plantation to St. Augustine Catholic Church and the Badin-Roque House. St. Augustine Historical Society member Oswalt Colson will present a program about the history of special part of Louisiana and American history. (13 miles round trip)

The park provides bikes, helmets and water for all rides. To make reservations for the April 4 bike ride and other details contact Ranger Tim at the park at (318) 356-8441.



## Jazz Fest (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

In the midst of the British music invasion, Ryder stayed true to his rock and soul roots, and cranked out several charting singles most notably *Devil With a Blue Dress On*, which hit number 4 in 1966.

Ryder and his Detroit Wheels also hit the top ten on the National charts with *Jenny Take a Ride* and *Sock It to Me Baby* and had many other charting singles.

Ryder will be backed at the festival by Johnny Earthquake & The Moondogs and will present the same high-energy hit-packed show he's made famous for over 50 years.

On Friday, April 17th, the legendary British rock band, Joey Molland's Badfinger, will be

presenting a bit of rock and roll history to the festival goers.

Badfinger was the first band signed by the Beatles new record company, Apple, in 1969. Paul McCartney gave them a song he had written, *Come and Get It*, and asked them to record it and offered to produce it.

*Come and Get It* became a world-wide hit in 1970 and set off a string of huge hits from 1970-1972 including *No Matter What*, *Day After Day* (produced by George Harrison) and *Baby Blue*. In 2013, *Baby Blue* made a resurgence onto the "Hot Rock Songs" Billboard 100 chart at number 14 due to its feature at the end of the series finale of the hit TV show "Breaking Bad."

Badfinger's song *Without You* hit the top of the charts twice, once for Harry Nilsson in 1972 and in 1994 for Mariah Carey.

Joey Molland, the leader of the modern version of Badfinger, is actually the only surviving member having been the group's original lead guitarist and vocalist.

The band's show, in the addition to being filled with its popular hits, also features Molland sharing interesting anecdotes and stories about his time working with The Beatles.

Festival chairman, Rodney Harrington says that the organizers are very excited about this year's musical lineup. "We felt we wanted to knock it out of the park for our 20th year and we think we've done that with not one, not two, but THREE legendary artists who had hits songs from the 60s all the way into the 2000s," Harrington said.

Harrington continued that "as always, the Festival will feature a wide variety of Rhythm & Blues, Jazz, Rock & Roll, Country, Zydeco and much more with over 25 bands performing on the four stages."

"We like to say that the real star of the show is the venue," Harrington continued. "The downtown Cane River Bank area together with the historic district has a vibe that can't be duplicated."

The Natchitoches Jazz/R&B Festival is a family event and features lots of kids activities and a wide variety of food vendors.

For more information, visit [www.natchjazzfest.com](http://www.natchjazzfest.com) or call the Natchitoches Tourist Commission at 800-259-1714.

## Summer Splash May 7

The City of Natchitoches will host Summer Splash 2015 on Thursday, May 7. Summer Splash is an annual informational fair that highlights summer activities throughout the city and parish for children of all ages.

Summer Splash will take place on Thursday, May 7, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Natchitoches Events Center located at 750 Second Street. The event is free and open to the public.

Summer Splash showcases educational, recreational and social youth programs taking place in Natchitoches this summer. Local groups will distribute information and registration forms for a variety of summer programs including Vacation Bible School, sports camps, art camps, science camps and more.

All groups and organizations planning activities for children this summer are encouraged to sign up for free booth space at the event.

For more information on Summer Splash or to reserve a booth, please contact the City of Natchitoches Main Street Office at (318) 352-2746 or email Samantha Bonnette at [sbonnette@natchitochesla.gov](mailto:sbonnette@natchitochesla.gov).

## NSU Spring Read April 17

Northwestern State University's Department of Language and Communication will host the annual Spring Read at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 17 with student and faculty poets and writers sharing their work based on the theme "Start Anew." The Spring Read will be held in the D'Amato-Thomas Reading Room in Watson Library.

"This year's theme is 'Start Anew,' and, in that spirit, we asked that all readers at this year's event share their own original work," said Dr. Thomas Reynolds, assistant professor. "All participants will read 3—5 minutes of poetry or prose, all original and preferably new for the event, as part of the program."

The event is free and open to the public. For more information on Spring Read, email Reynolds at [reynoldst@nsula.edu](mailto:reynoldst@nsula.edu) or call (318) 357-4236.

*The City of Natchitoches  
Offices will be closed Friday,  
April 3 for Good Friday.*

## City of Natchitoches

Oldest Permanent  
Settlement in the  
Louisiana Purchase

P.O. Box 37  
700 Second Street  
Natchitoches, La. 71458

Phone: 318-352-2772

Fax: 318-357-3829

E-mail:

cityhall@natchitochesla.gov

# Happy Easter!

## CRGM Season Opens April 25

The Cane River Green Market will open its 2015 season on Saturday, April 25th. Natchitoches' local farmer's market will take place every Saturday until July 25th from 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon on the downtown riverbank in the Natchitoches Historic District.

As always, customers will be able to choose from a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables from Green Market produce vendors. Customers will also be able to enjoy a selection of value-added products including farm fresh eggs, baked goods, jams, jellies, pickles, honey, fresh cut flower and more. Craft vendors of hand-crafted items such as jewelry, woodwork, and stained glass will also be on site.

The Cane River Green Market will also feature a variety of children's activities including a brand new Cane River Green Market Kids Club. Children ages 12 and under will be able to sign up for the Kids Club and will receive a market passport and \$10 to spend with Green Market vendors while supplies last. The Cane River Green Market will also feature live musical entertainment, demonstrations and free fitness classes.

The market will continue to accept WIC and Senior FMNP vouchers as well as EBT/SNAP benefits and credit/debit cards.

Vendor applications will be accepted through Friday, April 3, 2015. All vendors must be approved before selling items at the market.

For more information about the Cane River Green Market, please visit [www.canerivergreenmarket.com](http://www.canerivergreenmarket.com) or call 318-352-CRGM.



**BUY FRESH** **BUY LOCAL**

**Every Saturday**  
**April 25 - July 25**  
**8:00 a.m. - Noon**  
**Downtown Riverbank**

**Free Zumba** **Live Music**

**Fruits • Vegetables • Plants • Herbs • Eggs • Breads**  
**Jams • Jellies • Woodwork • Art • Jewelry •**  
**Kids' Activities • Demonstrations • Special Events**

**SNAP, CREDIT & DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED**  
Through a MarketMatch program, the Cane River Green Market will match up to \$20 in SNAP purchases per market while supplies last! The MarketMatch program meets SNAP shoppers who want to eat healthy and support local farmers half way.

**318-352-CRGM**  
**www.canerivergreenmarket.com**

**Kids Club**  
Join the Kids Club! Kids Club members receive a Kids Club Passport and \$10.00 in market money. Passport to be stamped at the market and receive \$10 in tokens to spend with the vendors!



## Upcoming Holidays & Important Dates

Apr. 3: Good Friday Holiday. City Offices Closed. town Riverbank

Apr. 4: Cane River Creole National Historical Park Bike Ride, Oakland Plantation to Cherokee Plantation & St. Charles Chapel, 9:00 a.m.

Apr. 6: Historic District Commission Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Apr. 7: Planning & Zoning Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Apr. 10: An Evening of Art, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum. Reservations required. \$45 registration fee, \$40 for FLASH members.

Apr. 11 & 12: Cane River Thunder Full Throttle Motorcycle Rally on the Down-

Apr. 13: City Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Apr. 16: Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission Meeting, 10:00 a.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Apr. 17 & 18: Natchitoches Jazz/R&B Festival on the Downtown Riverbank. Admission Charged.

Apr. 20—24: Keep Natchitoches Beautiful Litter Prevention Week at the Natchitoches Parish Library

Apr. 20: Airport Commission Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at Natchitoches Regional Airport

Apr. 24—25: Relay for Life on the Downtown Riverbank

Apr. 25: Great American Cleanup, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the Downtown Riverbank

Apr. 25: Cane River Green Market Opening Day, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the Downtown Riverbank

Apr. 27: City Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

